

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

D. RemarksObjection to Claim 9.

Claim 9 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to address this objection.

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Rejection of Claims 9 and 12 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on *Furutani* (U.S. Patent No. 5,673,231).

The invention of amended claim 9 is directed to a method of reducing a standby current contribution in conductive lines of a memory device. The method includes providing at least one transistor between each of a plurality of conductive lines arranged in a first direction within a memory cell array and a corresponding circuit coupled to a conductive line, including providing at least one transistor between a bitline and a corresponding sense amplifier circuit; programming a fuse-type element to generate and maintain a control signal first value if an associated conductive line is determined to have a defect; and disabling each transistor when the associated control signal has the first value to prevent defect induced current from flowing through the transistor with respect to the corresponding conductive line

As is well established, anticipation requires the presence of a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. There must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure, as viewed by a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention.¹

As emphasized above, the invention of amended claim 9 recites “programming a fuse-type element to generate and maintain a control signal first value if an associated conductive line is determined to have a defect”. Such a limitation is not believed to be shown in or suggested by the cited reference *Furutani*.

25 *Furutani* teaches the disconnecting of a fuse element in response to a defect:

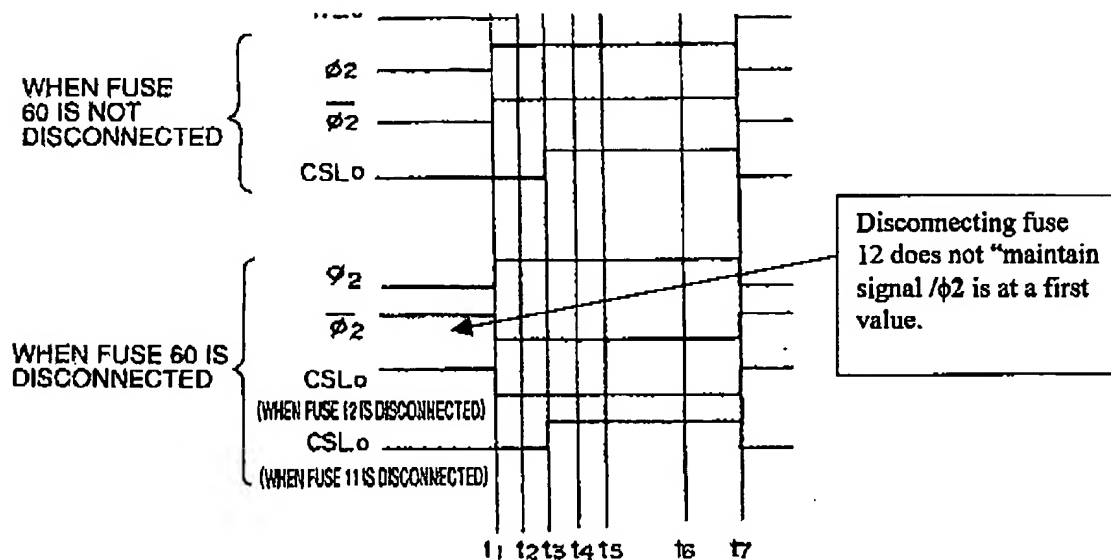
Next, a case in which there is a failure due to short-circuit between bit line BL0a and word line WL0a... will be described...

¹ Scripps Clinic & Research Found. v. Genetech Inc., 18 USPQ 2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

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Node N2 is *set at the potential of $\phi 2$* by disconnecting a fuse element 12 of the column decoder for driving column selecting line Y0 which selects bit lines BL0a, BL0a with failure due to short-circuit. (*Furutani*, Col. 9, Lines 32-47, emphasis added).

- 5 Thus, disconnection of fuse element 12 sets a potential of $\phi 2$. However, signal $\phi 2$ is not maintained at a first value, as recited in amended claim 9. Instead signal $\phi 2$ is a variable signal that swings between two levels:



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Accordingly, because the cited reference is not believed to show or suggest all the limitations of claim 9, this ground for rejection is traversed.

Rejection of Claim 10 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on *Furutani* in view of *Yamauchi et al.*
 15 (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,627).

As is well settled, to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, a rejection must meet three basic criteria. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify a reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference(s) must teach or suggest all claim limitations.

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To the extent that this ground for rejection relies on *Furutani*, the comments set forth above for claim 9 are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, Applicants believe that

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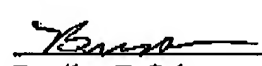
particular limitations within claim 9 are not shown in *Furutani*. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

Rejection of Claim 13 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on *Furutani* in view of *Yamauchi et al.*
5 further in view of *Kawai et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,627).

To the extent that this ground for rejection relies on *Furutani*, the comments set forth above for claim 9 are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, Applicants believe that particular limitations within claim 9 are not shown in *Furutani*. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

10 Claim 9 has been amended. The present claims 1-10 and 12-20 are believed to be in allowable form. It is respectfully requested that the application be forwarded for allowance and issue.

15 Respectfully Submitted,

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